

REMARKS

The final Office Action of May 18, 2007 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 17 and 36 are amended by the present Amendment. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Claims 18-26 and 33 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner in view of an earlier restriction requirement. Accordingly, claims 17, 28-32, 34-36 and 38-44 are pending in this application, and claims 17 and 36 are in independent form.

Interview of August 6, 2007

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the telephonic interview of August 6, 2007. During the interview, the Applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed United States Patent No. 6,666,586 to Wu et al. (hereinafter "the Wu patent") and several possible claim amendments. No agreements were reached during the interview.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejections

Claims 17, 28-32, 34-36 and 38-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Wu patent. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection.

As defined by amended independent claim 17, the present invention is directed to a sleeve mount comprising an interior for accommodating and securing a cylindrical sleeve having a longitudinal slit extending along an entire length of the cylindrical sleeve. The sleeve is provided in an adapter of an optical plug-in connection for accommodating ferrules of two optical plug-in connectors introduced from opposite directions into the adapter. The sleeve mount has means for securing the sleeve against rotation about a sleeve axis. The means for securing are arranged in a central part of the sleeve mount and are restricted to the central part of the sleeve mount. The sleeve mount is made up of two separate mount parts. The means for securing are arranged and retained between the mount parts.

As defined by amended independent claim 36, the present invention is directed to a sleeve mount comprising an interior for accommodating and securing a cylindrical sleeve

having a longitudinal slit extending along an entire length of the cylindrical sleeve. The sleeve is provided in an adapter of an optical plug-in connection for accommodating ferrules of two optical plug-in connectors introduced from opposite directions. The sleeve mount has means for securing the sleeve against rotation about a sleeve axis. The means for securing are arranged in a central part of the sleeve mount and are restricted to the central part of the sleeve mount. The means for securing are designed to engage in the longitudinal slit of the cylindrical sleeve. The sleeve mount is made up of two separate mount parts. The means for securing are arranged and retained between the mount parts.

The Wu patent is directed to an optic adaptor that connects first and second optic fibers in an aligned but spaced fashion for attenuation of optic signals traveling between the optic fibers. The optic adaptor (100) includes a stationary portion (101) to be mounted to a fixture and a moveable portion (102) that is manually moveable with respect to the stationary portion (101) for adjusting attenuation of the optic signal passing through the adaptor (100). The optic adaptor (100) includes a two-part sleeve mount (30 and 40) as shown in Figs. 5 and 13 for accommodating a cylindrical sleeve (20). The cylindrical sleeve (20) is provided in the adapter (100) of an optical plug-in connection for accommodating ferrules of two optical plug-in connectors introduced from opposite directions into the adapter. In the rejection of the claims, the Examiner is contending that the sleeve mount (40) with a groove (41) is equivalent to the sleeve having a longitudinal slit of the independent claims. The Examiner also alleges that the body (11) and knob (60) are equivalent to the two-part sleeve mount of the independent claims and coupling ring (70) is equivalent to the means for securing of the independent claims.

However, even based on this interpretation of the Wu patent, the Wu patent does not teach or suggest a cylindrical sleeve with a longitudinal slit extending along an entire length of the cylindrical sleeve as required by independent claims 17 and 36. As mentioned above, the Examiner is relying on sleeve mount (40) in the Wu patent as being equivalent to the cylindrical sleeve of the claimed invention. However, the sleeve mount (40) in the Wu patent only includes a notch (41) formed therein that extends only partially along the length thereof (see Fig. 5 of the Wu patent). Accordingly, the Wu patent does not teach or suggest a cylindrical sleeve with a longitudinal slit extending along an entire length thereof.

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For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant believes that the subject matter of amended independent claims 17 and 36 is not anticipated by the Wu patent. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 17 and 36 is respectfully requested.

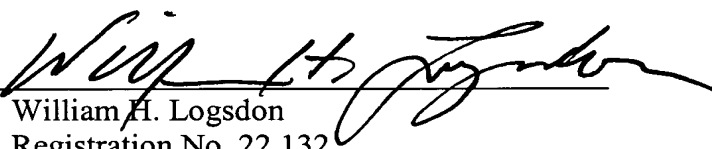
Claims 28-32, 34, 35 and 38-44 depend from and add further limitations to amended independent claims 17 and 36 or a subsequent dependent claim and are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with amended independent claims 17 and 36. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 28-32, 34, 35 and 38-44 is respectfully requested.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of pending claims 17, 28-32, 34-36 and 38-44 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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